



## Air travel across U.S. thrown into chaos after computer outage



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A Southwest Airlines passenger jet takes off from Chicago's Midway Airport as flight delays stemming from a computer outage at the Federal Aviation Administration brought departures to a standstill across the U.S. earlier Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, in Chicago.

Associated Press

## The Aruba Amenities commission presents plan to erect a monument at Seroe Colorado



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# Air travel across U.S. thrown into chaos after computer outage

From Front

By **DAVID KOENIG and MICHELLE CHAPMAN**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Planes were stuck on the ground for hours across the United States on Wednesday, leading to thousands of canceled and delayed flights after a government system used to give pilots safety and other information broke down overnight. The White House initially said that there was no evidence of a cyberattack behind the outage that ruined travel plans for millions of passengers. President Joe Biden said Wednesday morning that he directed the Department of Transportation to investigate. The outage showed how dependent the world's largest economy is on air travel, and how much air travel depends on an antiquated computer system to generate alerts called NOTAMs — or Notice to Air Missions — to pilots and others. Before a flight takes off, pilots and airline dispatchers must review the notices, which include information about weather, runway closures or construction and other information that could affect the flight. The system was once telephone-based, with pilots calling dedicated flight service stations for the in-



Passenger jets on the tarmac at Logan International Airport, Jan. 11, 2023, in Boston. Thousands of flight delays and cancellations rippled across the U.S. early Wednesday after computer outage led to a grounding order by the Federal Aviation Administration.

formation, but has moved online. The NOTAM system broke down late Tuesday and was not fixed until 9 a.m. Eastern on Wednesday, leading to about 1,200 flight cancellations and more than 7,800 delays by early afternoon on the East Coast, according to flight-tracking website FlightAware. Even after the Federal Aviation Administration lifted the order grounding planes, the chaos was expected to linger. More than 21,000 flights were scheduled to take off in the U.S. Wednesday, mostly

domestic trips, and about 1,840 international flights expected to fly to the U.S., according to aviation data firm Cirium. Airports in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Atlanta were seeing between 30% and 40% of flights delayed. "There was a systems issue overnight that led to a ground stop because of the way safety information was moving through the system," Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said at a press conference. "That was resolved, which allowed the ground stop to

be lifted at 9 this morning, but through the day we're going to see the effects of that rippling through the system." Buttigieg said his agency was now turning to understand what caused the NOTAM system to go down. Longtime aviation insiders could not recall an outage of such magnitude caused by a technology breakdown. Some compared it to the nationwide shutdown of airspace after the terror attacks of September 2001. "Periodically there have been local issues here or there, but this is pretty

significant historically," said Tim Campbell, a former senior vice president of air operations at American Airlines and now a consultant in Minneapolis.

Campbell said there has long been concern about the FAA's technology, and not just the NOTAM system. "So much of their systems are old mainframe systems that are generally reliable but they are out of date," he said.

John Cox, a former airline pilot and aviation safety expert, said there has been talk in the aviation industry for years about trying to modernize the NOTAM system, but he did not know the age of the servers that the FAA uses.

"I've been flying 53 years. I've never heard the system go down like this," Cox said. "So something unusual happened."

According to FAA advisories, the NOTAM system failed at 8:28 p.m. Eastern on Tuesday preventing new or amended notices from being distributed to pilots. The FAA resorted to a telephone hotline to keep departures flying overnight, but as daytime traffic picked up it overwhelmed the telephone backup system.

The FAA ordered all departing flights grounded early Wednesday morning, affecting all passenger and shipping flights. □

Associated Press



First lady Jill Biden walks out of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, as she and President Joe Biden prepare to board Marine One.

Associated Press

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Jill Biden's surgery Wednesday

day to remove a potentially cancerous lesion above her right eye was "proceeding well and as expected,"

## White House: Jill Biden surgery on lesion 'proceeding well'

according to her office. The first lady and President Joe Biden remained at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, as of midafternoon. They had arrived by helicopter at about 8 a.m. The update from Jill Biden's office came after she had been at the hospital for about six hours. A further update was expected after the surgery. Her office announced a week ago that doctors had discovered the lesion dur-

ing a recent routine skin cancer screening. She was to have a "common outpatient procedure known as Mohs surgery to remove and definitively examine the tissue," said Dr. Kevin O'Connor, the president's physician, in a Jan. 4 memo that the first lady's office released last week. That surgery involves cutting away thin layers of skin and examining each layer for signs of cancer, according to a fact sheet from the Mayo Clinic. Doctors keep removing layers of skin and

examining them until there are no signs of cancer. The procedure takes less than four hours for most people, and they can go home afterward.

Doctors recommended removing the lesion from the 71-year-old first lady "in an abundance of caution," O'Connor wrote in the memo.

The Skin Cancer Foundation said the delicate skin around the eyes is especially vulnerable to damage from the sun's ultraviolet rays. □



# U.S. official warns of risks posed by heavy electric vehicles

By TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

**DETROIT (AP)** — The head of the National Transportation Safety Board expressed concern Wednesday about the safety risks that heavy electric vehicles pose if they collide with lighter vehicles.

The official, Jennifer Homendy, raised the issue in a speech in Washington to the Transportation Research Board. She noted, by way of example, that an electric GMC Hummer weighs about 9,000 pounds (4,000 kilograms), with a battery pack that alone is 2,900 pounds (1,300 kilograms) roughly the entire weight of a typical Honda Civic.

"I'm concerned about the increased risk of severe injury and death for all road users from heavier curb weights and increasing size, power, and performance of vehicles on our roads, including electric vehicles," Homendy said in remarks prepared for the group.

The extra weight that EVs typically carry stems from the outsize mass of their



Jennifer Homendy of the National Transportation Safety Board speaks during a news conference, Oct. 3, 2019, in Windsor Locks, Conn.

batteries. To achieve 300 or more miles (480 or more kilometers) of range per charge from an EV, batteries have to weigh thousands of pounds.

Some battery chemistries being developed have the potential to pack more energy into less mass. But for

now, there's a mismatch in weight between EVs and smaller internal combustion vehicles. EVs also deliver instant power to their wheels, making them accelerate faster in most cases than most gas-powered cars, trucks and SUVs. Homendy said she was encouraged

by the Biden administration's plans to phase out carbon emissions from vehicles to deal with the climate crisis. But she said she still worries about safety risks resulting from a proliferation of EVs on roads and highways.

"We have to be careful that

we aren't also creating unintended consequences: More death on our roads," she said. "Safety, especially when it comes to new transportation policies and new technologies, cannot be overlooked." Homendy noted that Ford's F-150 Lightning EV pickup is 2,000 to 3,000 pounds (900 to 1,350 kilograms) heavier than the same model's combustion version. The Mustang Mach E electric SUV and the Volvo XC40 EV, she said, are roughly 33% heavier than their gasoline counterparts. "That has a significant impact on safety for all road users," Homendy added.

The NTSB investigates transportation crashes but has no authority to make regulations. For vehicles, such authority rests largely with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Even apart from EVs, the nation's roads are crowded with heavy vehicles, thanks to a decadelong boom in sales of larger cars, trucks and SUVs that's led to extreme mismatches in collisions with smaller vehicles □

Associated Press

# Watchdog sees 'light at the end of the tunnel' for the IRS

By FATIMA HUSSEIN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The IRS is beginning to see "a light at the end of the tunnel" of its customer service struggles, thanks to tens of billions of new money from the Democrats' climate and health law and the authority to hire more people, according to an independent watchdog within the agency.

But that upbeat assessment from the National Taxpayer Advocate is tempered by an early move by the new House Republican majority to rescind nearly \$71 billion that Congress had provided the IRS, even though the bill approved Monday is unlikely to advance in the Democratic-run Senate.

In the report Wednesday to Congress from Erin M. Collins, who leads the of-

fice assigned to protect taxpayers' rights under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, cited "more misery" for taxpayers last year and spoke of the challenges still ahead. "I am just not sure how much further we need to travel before we see sunlight," she said.

The report outlines how the 2022 tax filing season was a continuation of the yearslong struggle to process paper and electronic tax forms, answer taxpayer phone calls and distribute tax refunds in a timely manner.

The IRS was more successful in chipping away at its mountain of unprocessed returns. The agency began 2022 with a backlog of 4.7 million individual returns and 3.6 million amended returns. By mid-December 2022, the tax collector re-

duced that backlog to 1 million individual returns and 1.5 million amended returns.

By Dec. 23, the IRS had further reduced its unprocessed backlog of individual returns to about 400,000. "Taxpayers and tax professionals experienced more misery in 2022," the report said.

"The good news is that since the close of the 2022 filing season, the IRS has made considerable progress in reducing the volume of unprocessed returns and correspondence."

One reason for the optimism is the infusion of billions from the Democratic-powered legislation signed into law this summer. It is meant to help rebuild an agency that hadn't seen additional funding in decades.

House Republicans, however, want to rescind the money, saying it would bankroll an army of 87,000 auditors who will harass middle-class taxpayers rather than help them-claims that are generally alarmist and misleading.

Another boon to the agency is that IRS officials used direct hiring authority to most recently add 5,000 customer service representatives who were trained in taxpayer rights and technical account management issues. □



The exterior of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) building in Washington, on March 22, 2013.

Associated Press



# Supreme Court lets New York enforce gun law during lawsuit

By JESSICA GRESKO

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — New York can for now continue to enforce a sweeping new law that bans guns from “sensitive places” including schools, playgrounds and Times Square, the Supreme Court said Wednesday, allowing the law to be in force while a lawsuit over it plays out.

The justices turned away an emergency request by New York gun owners challenging the law. The gun owners wanted the high court to lift a federal appeals court order that had permitted the law to be in effect.

The appeals court hasn’t finished its review of the case, and justices are often reluctant to weigh in under those circumstances. The justices could still consider the case and the law more generally in the future.

In a two-paragraph statement that accompanied the court’s order, Justice Samuel Alito wrote that the New York law at issue in the case “presents novel and serious questions.” But Alito, writing for himself and fellow conservative Justice Clarence Thomas, said they understood the court’s decision not to intervene now “to reflect respect” for the



A traffic sign on the corner of 42nd Street and 6th Avenue announces Times Square as a gun free zone, Oct. 11, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

appeals court’s “procedures in managing its own docket, rather than expressing any view on the merits of the case.”

In a statement, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul cheered the court’s action.

“I’m pleased that this Supreme Court order will allow us to continue enforcing the gun laws we put in place to do just that. We believe that these thoughtful, sensible regulations will help to prevent gun violence,” she said.

The law’s challengers, meanwhile, underscored that their efforts would continue. In a statement, Gun Owners of America Senior Vice President Erich Pratt said that while his group had “hoped for immediate relief” they found Alito’s statement “incredibly reassuring” and “look forward to continuing the fight against New York’s draconian law.”

New York lawmakers rewrote the state’s handgun laws over the summer after

a June Supreme Court ruling invalidated New York’s old system for granting permits to carry handguns outside the home. The ruling said that Americans have a right to carry firearms in public for self-defense, invalidating the New York law, which required people to show a specific need to get a license to carry a gun outside the home. The ruling was a major expansion of gun rights nationwide and resulted in challenges to other, similar state laws.

The new law New York passed in the wake of the ruling broadly expanded who can get a license to carry a handgun, but it increased training requirements for applicants and required people seeking a license to provide more information including a list of their social media accounts.

Applicants for a license must also demonstrate “good moral character.” Beyond that, the law included a long list of “sensitive places” where firearms are banned, among them: schools, playgrounds, places of worship, entertainment venues, places that serve alcohol and Times Square.

U.S. District Judge Glenn Suddaby, however, declared multiple portions of the law unconstitutional and issued a preliminary injunction barring certain provisions’ enforcement. For example, Suddaby blocked portions of the law requiring applicants for a concealed carry license to show “good moral character” and to hand over information about their social media accounts. He also blocked parts of the law barring guns from theaters, parks, zoos and places where alcohol is served. □



Police and other emergency personal from various departments pay their respects during the funeral service for Chief Justin McIntire at Mount Saint Peter Roman Catholic Church on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, in New Kensington, Pa.

Associated Press

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Far fewer U.S. police officers died while on the job in

2022 than a year earlier, due mostly to a drop in COVID-19 deaths, though the number killed by gunfire remained relatively high,

## 64 police officers fatally shot while on the job in 2022

according to a report released Wednesday.

Sixty-four of the 226 officers who died in the line of duty last year were fatally shot, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund said. That matched the death-by-gunfire tally from 2021, with the shooting death figures from both years reflecting an increase in the average annual fatality toll over the past decade and an indication of a disturbing trend, said Bill Alexander, executive director of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington.

“We really do have some concerns about these numbers specific to firearms fatalities,” Alexander said. From 2010 to 2020, by comparison, 53 officers on average were killed by gunfire each year.

The country has seen an overall rise in violent crime in recent years, especially from gun violence. The exact causes are hard to pinpoint, but experts say potential factors include the pandemic, which has killed more than 1 million people in the U.S., as well as civil unrest and fears about the economy.

The overall number of police deaths dropped in 2022 by 61% from an all-time high of 586 a year earlier, as reduced coronavirus infection rates and widespread availability of vaccines meant fewer officers died from COVID. The organization tallies COVID-19 deaths from officers infected with the virus in the line of duty. The virus remained the No. 1 killer of police last year. There was also an increase in fatalities related to vehicle crashes. Forty officers died in traffic crashes last year, an increase of nearly 30% from 2021. □



## U.K., EU inch closer to deal over N. Ireland-Brexit trade spat

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Britain's foreign minister met politicians and businesspeople in Belfast bearing good news Wednesday: The U.K. and the European Union are inching closer to settling a post-Brexit trade dispute that brought economic headaches and political turmoil to Northern Ireland.

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly traveled to Belfast two days after Britain and the EU struck a data-sharing agreement that will give the EU access to real-time information about goods moving to Northern Ireland from the rest of the U.K.

The two sides said the agreement is "a critical prerequisite to building trust and providing assurance" elements that have been in short supply since Britain withdrew from the EU in 2020 and provided "a new basis for EU-U.K. discussions."

Cleverly and chief EU negotiator Maroš Šefčovič



Britain's Foreign Secretary James Cleverly attends a press conference after the first UK-Germany Strategic Dialogue meeting, which will agree cooperation on joint priorities, at Lancaster House, in London, Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023.

Associated Press

said officials from the two sides would "work rapidly to scope the potential for solutions in different areas on the basis of this renewed understanding."

The British government denied the two sides were in the home stretch toward a

deal but said the talks had taken an "important step forward."

Cleverly and Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris nonetheless faced a tough audience. As part of the island that includes the Republic of

Ireland, Northern Ireland is the only part of the U.K. that shares a border with an EU member nation. British unionist politicians there are fiercely opposed to post-Brexit trading arrangements known as the Northern Ireland Protocol. □

## Dutch government backtracks on migrant family reunions

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** —

The Dutch government on Wednesday backtracked on restrictions that it placed last year on family members joining asylum-seekers who are granted residency in the Netherlands, after courts ruled the move was unlawful.

State Secretary for Justice and Security Eric van der Burg said in a letter to parliament that he expects other courts to follow suit "as a result of which the useful effect of the measure is temporarily absent." Van der Burg said he is temporarily suspending the family reunion restrictions pending a definitive ruling by a Dutch administrative court. The justice ministry introduced the restrictions last year as part of a raft of measures aimed at reining

in the high numbers of migrants arriving in the Netherlands that led to a housing crisis and overcrowding at asylum-seeker centers. The problems came to a head in the summer when hundreds of people were forced to sleep outdoors



Hundreds of migrants who seek shelter prepared to spend the night outside an overcrowded asylum seekers center in Ter Apel, northern Netherlands, Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

in unsanitary conditions outside the country's main migrant reception center in the northern village of Ter Apel. The conditions at the camp were so bad that the Dutch branch of humanitarian group Doctors Without Borders sent

a team to tend to the migrants, the first time the agency had deployed in the Netherlands. In an attempt to ease the overcrowding, the government in late August announced measures including a move to temporarily rein in family reunions until migrants are permanently housed, provide more housing for people whose asylum requests are honored and process and repatriate people quicker from countries that are considered safe.

But a number of courts have since ruled that such family reunions can go ahead.

The Dutch council for Refugees has been highly critical of the policy, calling for it to be scrapped and labeling it "politics at its most ugly." □

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# Indonesian president acknowledges past human rights abuses

By NINIEK KARMINI

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Wednesday admitted serious human rights violations had occurred across the country in recent decades and vowed to compensate victims and prevent such abuses from happening again in the future.

In televised comments, Widodo acknowledged “with a clear mind and sincere heart” a total of 12 incidents categorized as gross human rights violations that occurred from the northernmost province of Aceh to the easternmost province of Papua between the 1960s and early 2000s.

Widodo’s remarks came a day before Human Rights Watch was to release its annual world report on human rights conditions in more than 100 countries and territories.

“I deeply regret it,” Widodo said, flanked by Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Muhammad Mahfud and members of a group of academics, former military generals and activists that



In this photo released by the Press and Media Bureau of the Indonesian Presidential Palace, Indonesian President Joko Widodo, center, delivers a speech at the Merdeka Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023.

Widodo formed in August last year to seek non-judicial resolutions to help relieve the nation of its historical burdens.

The group aims to help support physical rehabilitation, social assistance, health care, scholarship and other aid for victims of violence or their families that mostly occurred under the dictator Suharto’s regime.

“We are trying to recover the rights of victims in a fair and wise manner, without negating a judicial settlement,” said Widodo, adding that he hopes the government’s efforts “can heal the wounds of the nation.” Southeast Asia’s largest and most populous country has a long, checkered history on human rights that includes mass killings

in 1965-1966, also known as the Indonesian communist purge. The killings and civil unrest primarily targeted members of the Indonesian Communist Party, known by its Indonesian acronym PKI.

Widodo also acknowledged the kidnapping and disappearance of anti-government activists between 1997-1998, which

was later discovered to be the work of the Army’s Special Force Command, known as Kopassus, led at the time by Lt. Gen. Prabowo Subianto, who currently serves as Widodo’s defense minister.

Subianto was dismissed from military service for his role. After years in exile abroad, Subianto returned in 2004 to begin a political career.

Widodo also acknowledged a shooting campaign against criminals in Jakarta and other big cities between 1982-1985, the torture of suspected rebels in Aceh in 1988-1989, a deadly raid on an Islamic community in Lampung in 1989, the killing of students and anti-government protesters in 1998, anti-Chinese attacks and alleged mass rapes in Jakarta and other big cities in 1998, and deadly raids against civilians in Wasior and Wamena in Papua province between 2001-2003.

Human rights groups said they hoped Widodo’s move would not pave the way to close these cases or give impunity to their perpetrators. □

Associated Press

# Policeman burned to death amid antigovernment unrest in Peru

By DAVID PEREDA Z.

Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A police officer on patrol was attacked and burned to death by protesters in the

Peruvian region of Puno as the death toll from demonstrations in the wake of the ouster of former President Pedro Castillo rose to 47, authorities said Tuesday.

José Luis Soncco Quispe, 29, was on patrol with a fellow officer in Juliaca, a city near the border with Bolivia and Lake Titicaca, on Monday night when they were attacked by a mob that later set fire to their vehicle, according to police reports.

Soncco’s partner in the patrol car, Ronald Villasante Toque, said the men were “detained and physically attacked by some 350 protesters,” according to the reports.

Villasante was taken to a hospital in Lima with multiple head injuries after being beaten. He said he was unaware of what was happening to his partner.

Prime Minister Alberto Otárola confirmed Soncco’s death in a session of

Congress, saying the men were attacked by protesters.

“Police arrived at the scene and found that one officer had been beaten and tied up, and the other, Luis Soncco Quispe, unfortunately had died,” he said. “He was burned alive in his patrol car.”

Otárola announced a three-day curfew from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. in Puno, and a day of mourning for the fallen on Wednesday.

Peru’s Ombudsman’s Office said that since the protests began in early December after Castillo’s dismissal, 39 civilians had been killed in clashes with police and another seven had died in traffic accidents, as well as the fallen police officer.

The police officer’s death came after the killing of 17 people Monday in Juliaca as protests seeking immediate elections resumed in neglected rural areas of the country still loyal to Castillo.

The unrest began following Castillo’s removal and arrest following a widely condemned attempt to dissolve Congress and head off his own impeachment. Castillo’s successor, his former running mate Dina Boluarte, has supported a plan to push up to 2024 elections for president and congress originally scheduled for 2026. She’s also expressed support for judicial investigations into whether security forces acted with excessive force. □



Residents surround coffins during a vigil for the more than a dozen people who died during the unrest in Juliaca, Peru, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023.

Associated Press



## Local artist, Ruthy Vrieswijk-Bergen donates to Aruba Animal Shelter

ORANJESTAD – On December 14th of last year, audience at the Cas di Cultura theater enjoyed the third installment of the one-woman show “Alegria di Ruthy #3”, where profits from ticket sales were donated to a foundation that is always in need of monetary assistance.

In a press conference Monday morning, Ruthy Vrieswijk-Bergen, better known as “Lady Ruth”, cheerfully expressed that she has chosen Tuesday January 10th as an appropriate date to donate the profits from her show to the dynamic team Wayaca Animal Shelter, specifically Miss Sandy and Ria.

“We can look back at yet another successful show. About 200 people were present, some to whom we gifted tickets in the spirit of the holiday season,” Ruthy stated.

The sum that has been donated to Aruba Animal Shelter is 1,418 florins, which Ruthy expressed was an act of love and dedication, seeing as it was not easy to get many of the public to participate in some of her team’s activities due to their other holiday plans with friends and family.

It seems that this was the first time that Ruthy had ever arranged a show in the month of December, during which she was able to experience beautiful moments, including on training nights with her incredible team of artists and musicians in “Veranda Shon Jordan”.



Ruthy also expressed her gratitude and satisfaction with how everything had turned out before, during and after her show. There is always room for improvement, but seeing as Ruthy is not a professional, but indeed a multifaceted artist with heart and talent, she gave it her all again and felt the love that the audience had for her resonate in their laughter and applause.

Ruthy decided to make her

donation to the shelter after one of her friends made a joke about cats that made Ruthy relate to the animal shelter. Since then the shelter has had a place in her mind and heart. It is for that reason that the profits from her third show were intended to go to this foundation. In the past she made donations to the foundation for women in need (previously named Fundacion pa Hende Muhe den Dificultad, but now known as Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional) and three groups of

Scouting Aruba.

At the end of the conference, she thanked her sponsors and everyone who bought a ticket and went to go see her show; those who shared a night of laughter, music, dancing and poetry with the artist.

### Aruba Animal Shelter

As it is known on the island, the first pet law that is still in effect today was implemented on the first of February 1955 to deal with the problem of stray dogs

roaming the streets of the island. This problem is one that has been of great concern for Aruba for a while now.

With the support of the Freemasons on the island, Asociacion di Prevencion di Crueldad pa bestianan di Aruba (Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) started in 1950 and was located in an old bunker close to the airport.

In an effort to maintain a refuge for animals, Aruba Animal Shelter was founded in 1952, but in less than ten years, the organization was abandoned after a shortage of funds and lack of volunteers. It wasn’t until 1986, where Aruba Animal Shelter Foundation was registered in a notary along with volunteers and veterinary services that to this day still offer help to cats and dogs that are homeless and that may be at risk of danger on the streets.

For Sandy and Ria of Aruba Animal Shelter, the problem with cats and dogs roaming the streets is still an epidemic. Some owners turn to sterilization and microchipping their pets, but these end up back on the streets. Pet adoption were also low last year, and the organization hopes that this year would bring more people seeking to adopt, more donations and more volunteers in order to maintain their noble cause.





# LOCAL



## AUA Airport – Passenger Traffic Review 2022 Almost full recovery of 2019 traffic numbers reached



Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) is happy to report the AUA Airport's passenger traffic performance for the year 2022; passenger flow numbers increased considerably

in the last three quarters of the year showing excellent recovery rates versus the same period in 2019.

The total amount of revenue gen-

erating passengers (departing passengers) handled in 2022 was recorded at 1,207,587 which represents a recovery of 95% versus 2019. The departing passenger number in 2022 increased with 38% when comparing this to 2021.

### Recovery per quarter in 2022

For each quarter in 2022 the passenger traffic numbers per market performed as follows; During the first quarter of 2022, 77% of departing passengers were recovered versus the year 2019. The remaining quarters of 2022 showed a recovery versus the same period in 2019 of respectively 101%, 102% and 103%.

### Diversifying the US and NON-US markets further in 2022

Whilst the US Market represented a total of 81% of the total departing

passengers in 2021, this decreased to 75% at the end of 2022. This is in line with the strategy set forth by AUA airport to diversify the markets served from and to AUA airport as much as possible. This resulted in an increase in the market share of the NON-US Market from 19% in 2021 to 25% in 2022.

### New routes and additional frequencies 2022

In the year 2022 several airlines either started new operations to AUA Airport or amped up their frequencies. Airlines like Jet Air Caribbean and Arajet commenced operations with direct service out of Curacao and Santo Domingo with twice weekly service. Southwest started their new route with direct operations out of Orlando in the USA and Wingo commenced its successful operations out of Medellin Colombia and added frequencies to and from Bogota in Colombia. Sunclass Airlines restarted their operations out of Stockholm, and Air Canada restarted their operations out of Toronto Canada.

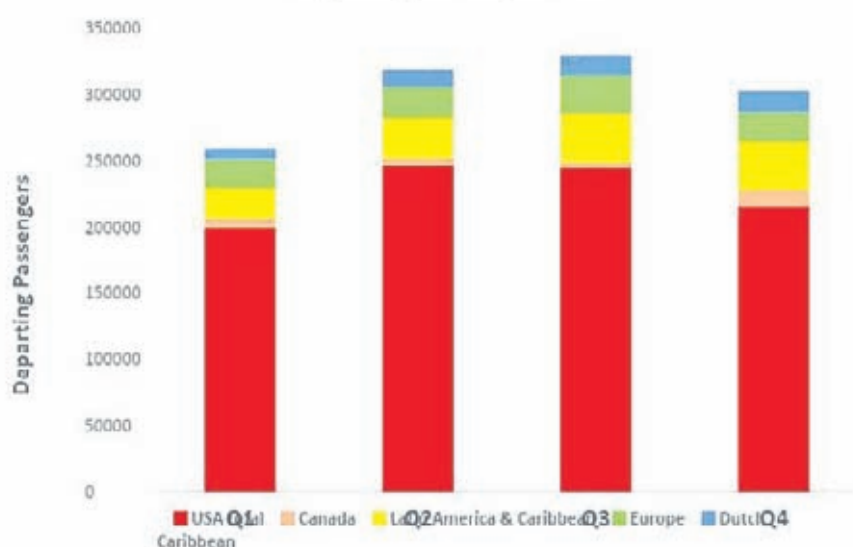
### Flight departure and load factors 2022

The total amount of aircraft movements for 2022 stands at 11,597 which is 22% more than the amount of flight departures reported in 2021 and a recovery of 87% versus the number of movements in 2019 for departing flights. An average load factor of 85% was reported in 2019 and for 2022 an average load factor of 83% was reached.

### Outlook 2023

For the year 2023 the AUA airport is expecting to receive approximately 13% more compared to 2022. The NON-US market share is expected to increase further in the year 2023 with new airlift opportunities being explored from those markets. A new route out of Europe with British Airways will be launched in March of 2023 and more new opportunities are being explored and developed stemming from the Latin American market. AUA Airport is confident that the year 2023 will be another successful year for the number of passengers and aircraft movements that will be handled. □

Departing Passengers 2022







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## Today Is Going To Be A Good Da



**Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.**

### Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose

job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whip-tail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the

park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website [www.arubanationalpark.org](http://www.arubanationalpark.org)

### Philip's Animal Garden

To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors



they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: [www.philipsanimalgarden.com](http://www.philipsanimalgarden.com).

### The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in

1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. [www.arubalighthouse.com](http://www.arubalighthouse.com) will give you more information.

### Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook. □



# Consumer Price Index, base period June 2019 November 2022

Oranjestad - The Central Bureau of Statistics presents the most important findings for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of November 2022.

## Consumer Price Index for the month of November 2022

The CPI for November 2022 is 106.49, an increase of 0.2% compared to the index of October 2022 (106.30) and accumulating an increase of 5.8% up to and including November of this year. The percentage change of the CPI over the last twelve (12) months (November 2021 to November 2022) is 6.6, an increase of 3.5 percentage points (ppts) compared

Table 1 Overview percentage change of the CPI

	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22
Index	99.90	100.60	100.07	100.44	101.47	102.16	102.49	103.26	104.46	106.43	106.20	106.30	106.49
Monthly	0.6	0.7	-0.5	0.4	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.2	1.9	-0.2	0.1	0.2
Year-to-date	2.9	3.6	-0.5	-0.2	0.9	1.5	1.9	2.6	3.8	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.8
End of period	3.1	3.6	3.3	3.5	4.0	4.7	5.2	5.3	6.0	7.7	7.0	7.0	6.6
Period average	0.2	0.7	1.2	1.7	2.1	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.7	4.3	4.7	5.1	5.3
Goods	0.7	1.4	-0.6	0.1	1.6	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.6	3.2	-0.2	-0.3	1.4
Services	0.5	-0.2	-0.5	0.7	0.2	0.5	-0.4	0.0	0.5	0.1	-0.3	0.7	-1.6
CPIC	-0.7	-0.3	0.1	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.0
Energy	5.1	6.7	7.5	8.2	8.7	8.8	8.7	9.0	9.5	10.8	11.9	12.8	13.5
Food	-0.9	-0.3	0.4	1.2	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.1	6.1	7.1	8.0	9.0	9.7
1 adult	2,331	2,337	2,343	2,348	2,372	2,382	2,403	2,414	2,440	2,513	2,528	2,529	2,553
2 adults + 2 children	4,896	4,907	4,920	4,931	4,980	5,003	5,046	5,070	5,124	5,278	5,309	5,311	5,362

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

to the percentage change for the same period of the previous year (3.1%).

The period average (last 24 months) percentage change of the CPI for the periods November 2020 to November 2021 and November 2021 to November 2022 is 5.3%, an increase of 5.1 ppts compared to the period average percentage change over the periods November 2019 to November 2020 and November 2020 to November 2021 (0.2%).

During this month, eight (8) of the twelve (12) sectors registered increases in prices. The increases that had the greatest influence on the CPI were registered for the "Transport" (2.2%) and "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" (1.7%) sectors, which contributed with an effect of 0.31 and 0.20 ppts, respectively. The increases in the remaining sectors had an effect of 0.35 ppts on the CPI of November 2022.

Aforementioned increases were partially offset mainly by a decrease in the index for the "Communications" (-6.5%) sector, causing an effect of -0.51 ppts. The decreases in the remaining sectors had an effect of -0.17 ppts on the CPI of November 2022.

The increase in the "Transport" sector was mainly due to an increase in the category "Operation of personal transport equipment" (3.0%), which contributed to an effect of 0.25 ppts. The increase in the "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" sector was mainly due to an increase of 1.8% in the category "Food", which contributed to an effect of 0.18 ppts.

The decrease in the "Communi-

cations" sector was mainly due to a decrease in the category "Telephone and telefax services" (-6.8%), which contributed to an effect of -0.51 ppts.

## Consumption basket

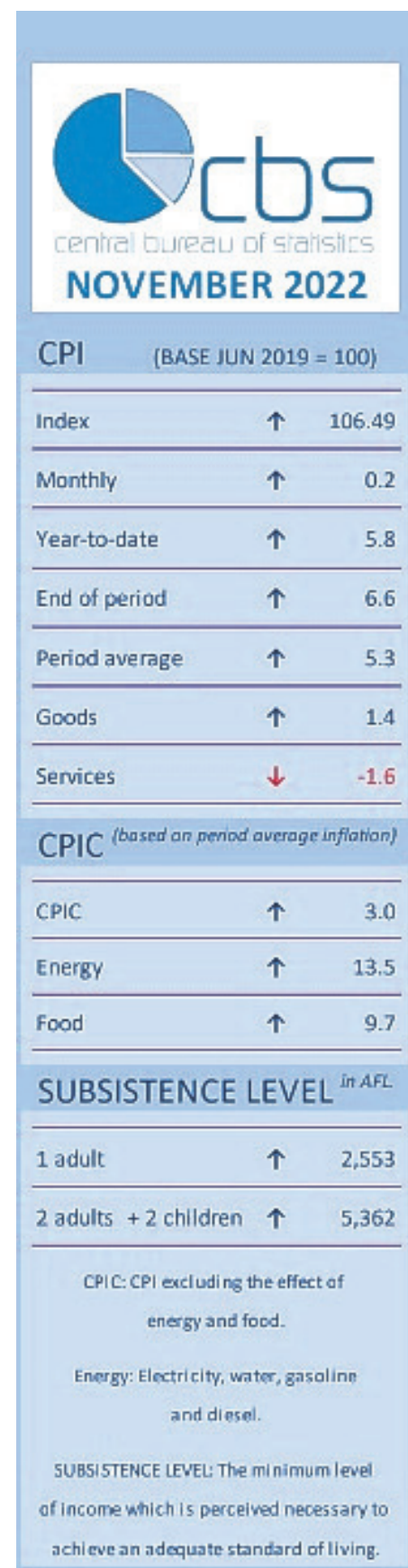
The consumption basket of the CPI consists of 408 goods and services. Compared to October 2022, 52.7% of these products had an increase in price, causing an effect of 1.40 ppts, while 33.1% showed a decrease, contributing to an effect of -1.22 ppts and the remaining 14.2% had no change in price. The prices of goods increased by 1.4% and caused an influence of 0.82 ppts. The prices of services decreased by 1.6% and had an influence of -0.64 ppts on the CPI of November 2022.

## Core inflation

The CPIC (core inflation) - CPI excluding the effect of energy and food - was 3.0% in November 2022. The energy index - which consists of the products: electricity, water, gasoline and diesel - was 13.5%. The food index showed an increase of 9.7%.

## Subsistence level

The subsistence level for a household consisting of two (2) adults and two (2) children (aged 0-14 years) in November 2022 is Afl. 5,362, an increase of Afl. 466 compared to November 2021 (Afl. 4,896). The subsistence level for a single adult household is Afl. 2,553, an increase of Afl. 222 compared to November 2021 (Afl. 2,331). □



# Carnaval 2023

Celebrating 69 years

## OFFICIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY NOV 11	11/11 CARNIVAL STREET PARTY	SUNDAY FEB 05	TRANSFER OF COMMAND
SATURDAY JAN 07	TORCH PARADE	SUNDAY FEB 05	GRAND CHILDREN'S PARADE ORANJESTAD
SUNDAY JAN 08	PRINS & PANCHO ELECTIONS	WEDNESDAY FEB 08	SUNSET PARADE
FRIDAY JAN 13	CHILDREN & YOUTH QUEEN ELECTION	FRIDAY FEB 10	CAYA PADEN
SATURDAY JAN 14	CHILDREN & YOUTH CALYPSO & ROADMARCH	FRIDAY FEB 10	JOUE CITY
FRIDAY JAN 20	TUMBERITO FESTIVAL	SATURDAY FEB 11	JOUEVET MORNING
SATURDAY JAN 21	67TH CARNIVAL QUEEN & MRS. CARNIVAL	SATURDAY FEB 11	LIGHTING PARADE
SUNDAY JAN 22	LGBTQ+ ELENTIONS BRUNCH	SUNDAY FEB 12	GRAND CHILDREN'S PARADE SAN NICOLAS
SUNDAY JAN 22	STEELPAN & DRUMS SHOWDOWN	SUNDAY FEB 12	BURNING OF MOMITO
WEDNESDAY JAN 25	DIA DI BETICO	THURSDAY FEB 16	PARADA DI LUZ
FRIDAY JAN 27	CAISO MONARCH FINALS	FRIDAY FEB 17	CARNIVAL TA BIDA (JUMP IN)
SATURDAY JAN 28	SUPER SATURDAY SOCA FINALS	SATURDAY FEB 18	SAN NICOLAS GRAND PARADE
SUNDAY JAN 29	PARADA DI BLAAS	SUNDAY FEB 19	ARUBA'S GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE
FRIDAY FEB 03	HEBBE HEBBE	SUNDAY FEB 19	BURNING OF MOMO
SATURDAY FEB 04	CHILDREN'S PARADE NOORD	MONDAY FEB 20	CARNIVAL MONDAY
SATURDAY FEB 04	GRAND TUMBA CONTEST	WEDNESDAY FEB 22	ASH WEDNESDAY



## During the first Ministerial Advisory of the year: The Aruba Amenities commission presents plan to erect a monument at Seroe Colorado



**ORANJESTAD – Last week Friday, the government of Aruba organized its first Ministerial Advisory for the year 2023, which took place in San Nicolas. It is at this event that leaders were presented with plans and project ideas for San Nicolas.**

Mr. Aldrich Croes of the commission Aruba Amenities presented a project that will take place at Seroe Colorado. This project involves a monument that shines a light on the role

that Seroe Colorado, the oil refinery and our people played during the Second World War.

Mr. Croes explained that Mr. Dufi Kock, Aruban historian and winner of the "Silver Carnation", presented the history of Seroe Colorado, the war and its victims. Mr. Croes further explained that Francis Gomes of the DOW presented plans for the infrastructure of the monument and how this will be linked with the district of San Nicolas.

"San Nicolas has businesses

that have existed since the Second World War, so the district—along with the refinery—has many historical aspects that are valuable. The district will also play an important role in the eminent future once this piece of heritage becomes functional."

### Francis Gomes DOW

Mr. Francis Gomes of the DOW expressed that the establishment is currently handling the infrastructure of the monument in order to lay its foundation. DOW



is currently also planning parking lots and walking areas in order to create a single pathway between all areas of interest. At the site of the monument, there are old foundations of the artillery guns and the ammunition bunker, which the institution is considering renovating in order to create an additional experience in San Nicolas and the area of Seroe Colorado on its own. This will also be linked to the master plan for the area. The other phases of the project include provid-

ing artwork of the monument and building replicas of artillery guns at the site.

### Dufi Kock

"It is important for both locals and tourists to learn about the important role that Aruba and the Lago refinery played during the war", Mr. Kock states. It is through this monument that is dedicated to 47 crew members who brutally lost their lives during the war on February 16th 1942 that the role of our people will be remembered. □

## Minister Oduber visits Costa Linda Beach Resort

**ORANJESTAD – The minister of Tourism and Public Health, Mr. Dangui Oduber, paid a visit to Costa Linda Beach Resort. This is part of an initiative that started back in 2022, where the minister would visit different hotels in order to talk about the hotels' strategies and visions.**

During his visit at Costa Linda, Minister Oduber had the opportunity to sit down with General Manager Mr. Luis Heredia, who gave a beautiful presentation of the Hotel's future plans.

Costa Linda Beach Resort has been on Aruba for 31 years and all of its timeshares has been completely sold out. During his visit, Minister Oduber had the opportunity to converse with more than three employees who expressed how proud they are to be working at the hotel for more than 30 years and how they developed within



the company.

Costa Linda is a hotel where the owners are its own home owners; they believe in investing continually in order to improve their product and quality. The com-

pany also believes in investing in their employees, who receive great care and treatment. Costa Linda had a productive 2022, with the company successfully completing several projects including the initia-



tive to reduce energy use for sustainability. They have different renovations in the pipeline for 2023, including the renovation of their lobby, construction of a big canopy at the hotel's restaurant Water's Edge and many more.

Costa Linda is a timeshare hotel that sees sales 51 weeks out of the 52 weeks of the year. This is so that there are always ten rooms under maintenance. They predict that 2023 will be better than 2019 and they are prepared to be capable for it. Costa Linda has

shown confidence in product Aruba to keep investing in the improvement of their hotel.

The minister wishes to express his gratitude toward Costa Linda for his fruitful visit and for their efforts to improve their quality and service. Mr. Oduber is very enthusiastic about the plans for the future. All these developments align with the Minister's vision to place more value on the tourists who invest in Aruba and to raise the quality of their experience during their visit. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

- 1 Neatnik's opposite
- 5 Small porch
- 10 Casserole staple
- 11 Painter's place
- 12 Brighton brews
- 13 Take care of
- 14 1998 Wes Anderson film
- 16 Weary from walking
- 20 Modify
- 23 Pasture
- 24 Elite Navy group
- 25 Corona, e.g.
- 27 Here, in Quebec
- 28 "Key Largo" co-star
- 29 Legends and such
- 32 Dyed-in-the-wool
- 36 Tahini base
- 39 Follow orders
- 40 Conjured up
- 41 Single
- 42 Luke-warm
- 43 Owner's document

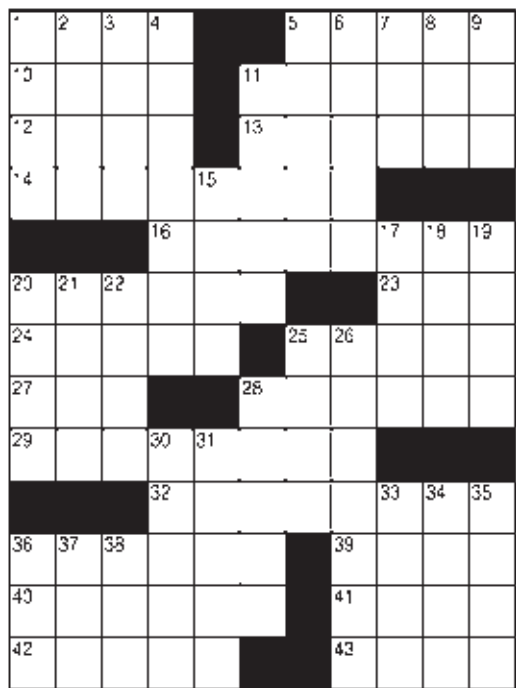
## DOWN

- 1 Flag feature
- 2 Hum-dinger
- 3 Wallet bills
- 4 Doc's friend
- 5 Set off
- 6 Melodies
- 7 Strange
- 8 Gusher flow
- 9 "The Gold-Bug" writer
- 11 Photo session
- 15 Terrarium growth
- 17 Gymnast Korbout
- 18 Genuine



Yesterday's answer

- 19 Rank above viscount
- 20 "Like that'll happen!"
- 21 1920s art style
- 22 Lockup
- 25 Joker, e.g.
- 26 Freezing
- 28 Yawning, perhaps
- 30 Uniform material
- 31 Crippled
- 33 Clarinet cousin
- 34 Painter Magritte
- 35 Took in
- 36 Ready to go
- 37 Genesis name
- 38 Soak up



1-12

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-12

## CRYPTOQUOTE

C STQ'P YQTV VGOXO C'U

FTCQF HXTU GOXO. LIP C

BXTUCRO C VTQ'P LTXO ATL

— SWECS LTVCO

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE AND DO IT ON PURPOSE. · DOLLY PARTON

# Soaring U.S. egg prices put pressure on consumers, businesses

By JOSH FUNK  
AP Business Writer

**OMAHA, Neb. (AP)** — Chickens may not be able to fly very far, but the price of eggs is soaring.

A lingering bird flu outbreak, combined with soaring feed, fuel and labor costs, has led to U.S. egg prices more than doubling over the past year, and hatched a lot of sticker shock on grocery aisles. The national average price for a dozen eggs hit \$3.59 in November, up from \$1.72 a year earlier, according to the latest government data. That's putting stress on consumer budgets and the bottom lines of restaurants, bakeries and other food producers that rely heavily on eggs.

Grocery prices that were up 12% in November are driving inflation higher, even though the overall pace of price increases slowed a bit through the fall as gas prices eased. But egg prices are up significantly more than other foods even more than chicken or turkey because egg farmers were hit harder by the bird flu. More than 43 million of the 58 million birds slaughtered over the past year to control the virus have been egg-laying chickens, including some farms with more than a million birds apiece in major egg-producing states like Iowa.

Everyone who approaches the egg case a Hy-Vee grocery store in Omaha, "has a sour face," said shopper Nancy Stom.

But even with the cost increases, eggs remain relatively cheap compared to the price of other proteins like chicken or beef, with a pound of chicken breasts going for \$4.42 on average in November and a pound of ground beef selling for \$4.85, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. "It's still an inexpensive meal," Stom said. But the 70-year-old said that at these prices, she'll watch her eggs more closely in

the fridge and try not to let them go bad before they get used.

If prices remain this high, Kelly Fischer said she will

start thinking more seriously about building a backyard chicken coop in Chicago because everyone in her family eats eggs. □

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Week 8/Unit 1113 (19k);  
Week 8/Unit 1409 (19k);  
Week 10/Unit 1207 (17k);  
Week 13/Unit 1509 (14k);  
Week 14/Unit 1308 (14k); and,  
Week 15/Unit 1217 (10k).  
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US(Call/Text): (860)992-3890

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Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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# SAG Awards nominate 'Banshees,' 'Everything' and Zendaya

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — In nominations to its 29th annual awards, the Screen Actors Guild heaped honors on the casts of the anarchic indie hit "Everything Everywhere All at Once" and the Irish tragicomedy "The Banshees of Inisherin," while throwing some curve balls into the Oscar race.

The awards contenders, voted on by the Hollywood actors' guild SAG-AFTRA, were announced Wednesday on Instagram Live by Haley Lu Richardson ("The White Lotus") and Ashley Park ("Emily in Paris"). The nominees for the guild's top award, best ensemble, are: "Babylon," "The Banshees of Inisherin," "Everything Everywhere All at Once," "The Fabelmans" and "Women Talking."

The SAG Awards are considered one of the most reliable Oscar bellwethers. Seldom does a movie or performance not nominated by the screen actors end up winning at the Academy Awards. Actors make up the biggest percentage of the film academy, so their choices have the largest sway.

Missing out on a SAG en-



This image released by A24 Films shows, from left, Stephanie Hsu, Michelle Yeoh and Ke Huy Quan in a scene from, "Everything Everywhere All At Once."

semble nomination usually means a film's best-picture hopes are over. Last year, all the top SAG winners the cast of "CODA," Will Smith, Jessica Chastain, Troy Kotsur and Ariana DeBose all repeated their wins at the Oscars. That means the road ahead for either of the year's top box-office hits "Top Gun: Maverick" and "Avatar: The Way of Water" just got a lot harder. After striking out with the

actors guild, neither is likely to win best picture. Each film picked a nod from SAG for its stunt ensemble.

Coming off their wins at the Golden Globes on Tuesday night, Steven Spielberg's "The Fabelmans" and Martin McDonagh's "The Banshees of Inisherin" (a co-leading five SAG nods) increasingly look like this year's frontrunners, along with Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert's "Everything

Everywhere All at Once" (also five SAG nominations). The directors to those three films all landed nominations from the Directors Guild Awards on Wednesday, along with Todd Field ("Tár") and Joseph Kosinski ("Top Gun: Maverick"). A DGA nod usually corresponds with an Oscar directing nomination.

It also suggests those five films are safely in as best-picture nominees. Since

Associated Press

the best-picture category expanded in 2009, only one DGA-nominated film hasn't also landed a best-picture nod.

After back-to-back DGA wins for Chloe Zhao ("Nomadland") and Jane Campion ("The Power of the Dog"), no female filmmakers were nominated. And, in a surprise, James Cameron ("Avatar: The Way of Water") went un-nominated.

Gaining the most from the SAG Award nominations, perhaps, was Damien Chazelle's extravagant silent film era ode "Babylon" and Sarah Polley's feminist allegory "Women Talking." Before landing best ensemble nominations (albeit no individual nods), both films had struggled to find traction this awards season.

Up for best performance by an female actor in a leading role are: Cate Blanchett ("Tár"), Viola Davis ("The Woman King"), Ana de Armas ("Blonde"), Danielle Deadwyler ("Till") and Michelle Yeoh ("Everything Everywhere All at Once"). In a crowded field, notably overlooked was Michelle Williams, who's been lauded for performance in "The Fabelmans." □

## Lizzo, Swift and Styles lead iHeartRadio Award nominations

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Lizzo, Taylor Swift and Harry Styles lead the 2023 iHeartRadio Music Awards nominations with seven nods each, with Jack Harlow and Drake close behind with six each. The iHeartRadio Music Awards honor the most played artists of the year on their stations and app, and fans can vote in several categories including best fan army, best lyrics, best cover song, best sample and best music video. Voting on Twitter begins Wednesday using the appropriate category and nominee hashtags and will close March 20.

For top song of the year,

Lizzo's "About Damn Time" faces off against Swift's "Anti-Hero," Styles' "As It Was," Justin Bieber's "Ghost," Doja Cat's "Woman," "Glass Animals' "Heat Wave," Latto's "Big En-

ergy," Lil Nas X & Jack Harlow's "Industry Baby," Harlow's "First Class," and Imagine Dragons' "Enemy."

The iHeartRadio Music Awards will be aired March

27 on Fox from the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles and aired on iHeartRadio stations and the app.

With five nominations each are Doja Cat, Beyoncé, Dua Lipa, Tems, Bad Bunny and Red Hot Chili Peppers. Silk Sonic, Future, Latto, Imagine Dragons, The Weeknd, BLACKPINK, Karol G and Nicki Minaj have six each. The artist of the year crown pits Beyoncé against Doja Cat, Drake, Dua Lipa, Styles, Harlow, Bieber, Lizzo, Swift and The Weeknd. Best duo or group nominees are AJR, Black Eyed Peas, BLACKPINK, Silk Sonic, Glass Animals, Imagine Dragons, Måneskin, OneRepublic, Parmalee and Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Country artist of the year nominees are Carrie Underwood, Jason Aldean, Kane Brown, Luke Combs and Morgan Wallen. Hip-hop artist of the year nominees are Drake, Future, Kodak Black, Lil Baby and Moneybagg Yo.

Nominees for alternative artist of the year are Imagine Dragons, Måneskin, Twenty One Pilots, Weezer and Red Hot Chili Peppers, the last of whom also are on the list of rock artists of the year, along with Ghost, Papa Roach, Shinedown and Three Days Grace.

The Latin pop/reggaeton artist of the year nominees are Bad Bunny, Daddy Yankee, Farruko, Karol G and Rauw Alejandro. □



This combination of photos show Lizzo performing on NBC's "Today" show in New York on July 15, 2022, left, Harry Styles at the premiere of "My Policeman" during the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 11, 2022, center, and Taylor Swift at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles on Nov. 20, 2022.

Associated Press



# NFL offseason a mental, physical reboot process for players

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.

AP Pro Football Writer

Aaron Rodgers hits the beach and has even hosted a TV game show. Alvin Kamara has snowboarded in the mountains of Montana.

Quinton Jefferson takes his kids to school and runs errands. Sheldon Rankins catches up on cooking and traveling.

Game plans and practices are replaced in the NFL offseason by all the activities exciting and mundane players couldn't do the last several months. It's also a chance to rejuvenate their bodies and minds from the tolls of playing such a violent, competitive game.

Playoff teams can play deep into January, and even into February if they make it to the Super Bowl. But for players on the 18 teams that failed to make the postseason, the offseason begins when the clock hits zero in the regular-season finale.

"You want to get to that ultimate goal of the Super Bowl and all that," said Kamara, whose Saints have missed the playoffs the past two seasons. "But if you don't make it, you fall short, it's still like, 'All right, we lost,' but now you've got some time to decompress and really just get your body right, get your mind right. Because it's demanding every week.

"You can't do this job halfway. So, I just kind of disconnect from everything. I go on a hiatus, really."

Rodgers, who has surfed the shores of California to unwind and guest-hosted 10 episodes of "Jeopardy!" during the 2021 offseason, knows the feeling.

"I think we all take a deep breath once the season is over, and for me it's not that hard to get into that offseason mode and enjoy my time away from it," the Green Bay quarterback said.

"I think it's important to actually take time. When you're younger, you want to jump back into workouts. When you're older, you give yourself a little bit more time.

"But it's more just having that balance, being able to shut that off when you get out away from here." This offseason will be a bit

last week and then playing and beating New England in the regular-season finale last Sunday.

"Honestly, I don't know

Tennessee's 19-16 loss to Cincinnati in the AFC divisional round last year. He needed therapy to get him through "a lot of sleepless

When that goal no longer exists, players recognize the need to flip a mental switch before gradually re-starting the process.

"Allow your mind to shift to other things you like and enjoy doing," said Rankins, whose Jets have the NFL's longest postseason drought at 12 years. "Because just like with anything, you stay too locked in, you'll burn yourself out."

Jefferson, who's married with four kids, takes the time away to, well, reintroduce himself to his family.

"That's the most important thing, making sure I'm being engaged with my children and making sure I'm being present," he said. "This is strenuous on a lot of our wives. They don't get us during the season. It's hard."

Players also use the time off to heal from all the bumps, bruises, breaks and muscle tears they've subjected themselves to the past several months. Medical procedures to fix nagging injuries aren't uncommon.

"It's nice to have your body not hurt for a little bit," said offensive lineman Nick Gates, whose Giants play at Minnesota on Sunday.

"But after a couple of months, you get bored and you want to get back into the swing there."

And it comes soon enough. NFL players will find themselves back at team facilities in April, followed by organized team activities in May, minicamp in June and then training camp in late-July as they prepare for a new season.

Hopefully, physically and mentally refreshed.

"You allow that love, allow that thirst for the game to truly come back," Rankins said.

"Allow your mind to be free and be able to look forward to it again. And then you're itchin'. You're ready to go all over again." □



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers walks off the field after an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings, Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, in Green Bay, Wis.

Associated Press

more intriguing than most, though, for the 39-year-old Rodgers. He's under contract for next season but is uncertain about his playing future.

"I want to take the emotion out of it and have the conversation and see where the organization's at and see how I feel after some time has passed," Rodgers said after the Packers were eliminated from playoff contention with a 20-16 loss to Detroit last Sunday night. Reflection and recovery mentally and physically are part of the offseason routine for every player, youngster or vet.

"It is a mental strain," said Jefferson, whose Seahawks will play at San Francisco on Saturday in the NFC wild-card round. "I've seen this game break down a lot of strong dudes, strong men."

Several Bills players acknowledged the duress they experienced after witnessing teammate Damar Hamlin being resuscitated on the field in Cincinnati

how some of us did it," cornerback Tre'Davious White said.

NFL players often mention being able to compartmentalize and separate their lives on and off the field. That's why most use the first several weeks of their "vacation" to clear their minds. Some eventually explore new business ventures or work on earning academic degrees.

"At least early in the offseason before I get back training, I'm not doing nothing," said Kamara, who spent part of his 2021 offseason learning how to snowboard in southwestern Montana. "I'm just chillin', kind of flowing with the wind."

The disappointment of not making the playoffs or losing during them gradually gives way to relief during the offseason, but the grind takes its toll. So does the overwhelming desire to win.

Titans quarterback Ryan Tannehill acknowledged he had a "deep scar" and was in a "dark place" after

nights" after blaming himself for the defeat.

Tannehill isn't alone in seeking help for mental health during and after the season.

"I go see a therapist weekly, definitely making sure I even go see them in person now," Jefferson said. "I do a Zoom in season, but make sure I spend that time to see my person. Just really taking time to get your mental and your body right."

The focus for NFL players from some time in late-February or early March, when many start getting in training mode with light workouts and reviewing game film, through the next 10 months is performing at a high enough level to help their team reach the playoffs and hopefully the Super Bowl.





# Heat still believing a 2nd-half run is possible this season



Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) attempts a shot during final seconds of the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, in Miami.

Associated Press

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

**AP Basketball Writer**

**MIAMI (AP)** — The starting lineup changes almost daily. The leading scorer has various aches and pains, the leading rebounder has a bad wrist, the assist leader is dealing with knee soreness and the team's 3-point record-holder is wearing a cast on his shooting hand. Plus, almost every game comes down to the final moments. And most recently, the best night of free-throw shooting in NBA history was what was required to pull out a one-point win.

There's still a belief within the Miami Heat a team that had the best record in the Eastern Conference

last season that a deep playoff run is possible. But with a 22-20 record one game into the season's second half, and stuck in the No. 8 spot in the East, the Heat also know that it's time to start putting wins together.

"It's the start of the second season," coach Erik Spoelstra said Tuesday after a 112-111 win over Oklahoma City.

"I feel something. I think the locker room feels something. But we also have to prove it. We know that. A lot of it just ends up being talk at this point. But we feel encouraged. Even with all the moving parts and injuries and missed games, we feel like something is happening."

It's been one step forward, one step back all season for the Heat. They had a season-best four-game winning streak in December, a season-worst four-game losing streak in November. They didn't get to the .500 mark for the first time until the 30th game and their current spot two games over .500 matches their best of the season.

They're up to 18 different starting lineups this season, seven in their last nine games. Jimmy Butler leads Miami in scoring; he has missed time with a knee injury and had an aching wrist on Tuesday, when the Heat went an NBA-record 40 for 40 from the foul line, with Butler making 23 of those shots.

"I think that's what I signed up for, to be able to play at a high level no matter who we have alongside each other," Butler said.

"I don't have the hard job. Spo does. He's got try to mix and match guys, make guys feel comfortable while trying to tell them where to be on the floor, and how to run what play, when to run what play. It's a lot going on."

Bam Adebayo missed the game with a bad wrist, Kyle Lowry with a balky knee, Tyler Herro with a sore Achilles and Caleb Martin with a quadriceps strain. □

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